ELSEWHEN

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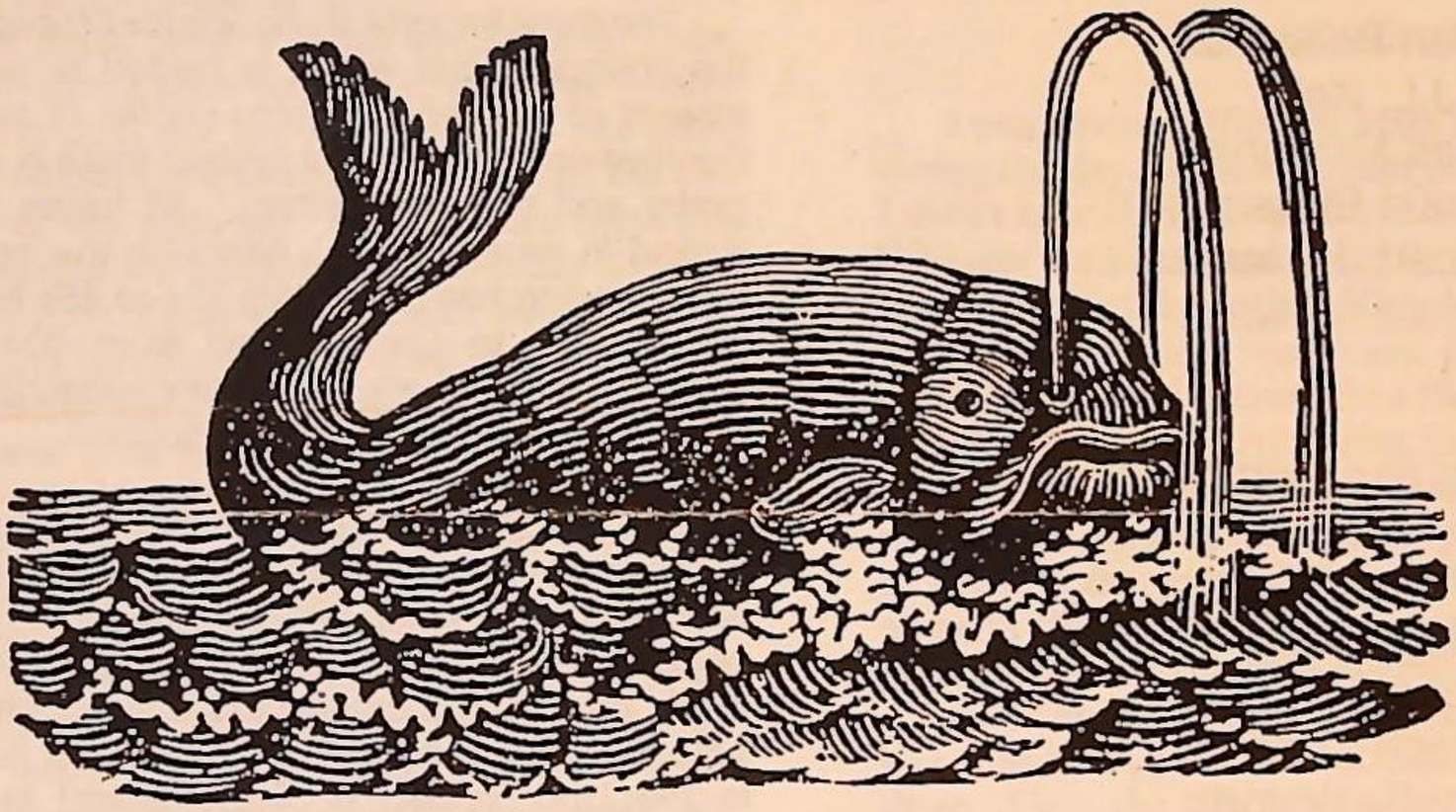
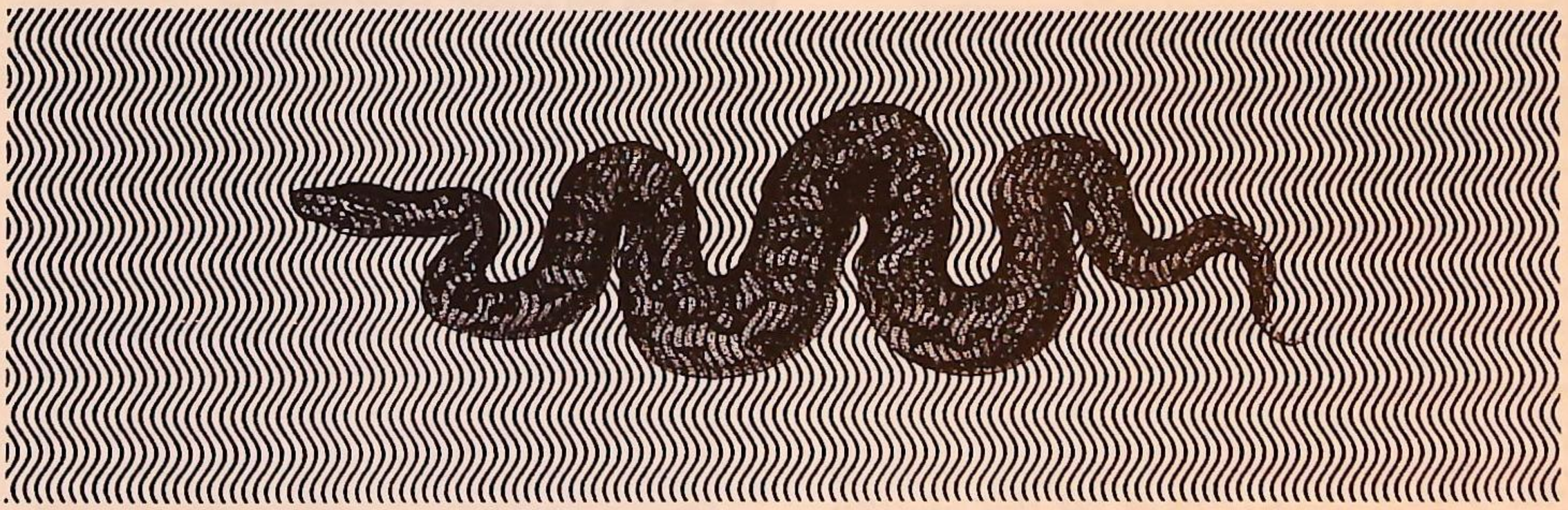
"EXPLORING MYSTERIES OF TIME AND SPACE"

Sea Monsters





In this Issue of Elsewhen:

The Cape Ann Sea Serpent of 1817

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Spring 1990

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Message from the Editor

Tempus fugit -- Time flies

Welcome to the third issue of *Elsewhen*! I hope that the beginning of 1990 has been good for you. Thank you for continuing to send in your comments and ideas. This issue marks the beginning of the new and improved *Elsewhen*. Many of the regular contributors have a column up and running. Also, "The Hand of Fate" and "Did You Know...?" have been discontinued as regular features, to make room for articles and/or letters. These two columns may return on an occasional basis in later issues. I am hoping to add an additional page starting with the next issue but I can't do that unless you contribute articles and letters.

The most important change for *Elsewhen*, though, is the change in the way it is mailed to you. Evidently, several of you received torn copies of previous issues. Somewhere in the postal system there is a machine that grabs and rips newsletters. All future issues will be mailed in an envelope. Although the cost of postage for *Elsewhen* has gone from 25¢ to 45¢ in the U.S, from 30¢ to 60¢ to Canada and from 90¢ to $1.35 for overseas subscribers, the current subscription prices will remain the same until further notice.

T.A.R.A. is fifteen months old as you read this. It has been an exhausting, difficult and mostly single-handed job being the director of T.A.R.A. and the editor of *Elsewhen*. But it's also been a lot of fun! I've made many new friends around the country and overseas. I am amazed at the depth and variety of people involved in the Unexplained or Supernatural in one way or another. At least once a month (since I started T.A.R.A.) I've received a letter or card that made me smile or taught me something new. Thank you for all of your help, advice and support. Enjoy this issue!

Mark R. Gardner

This Issue of Elsewhen
Is Dedicated to the Memory of

Charles Fort
Frank Edwards
Ivan T. Sanderson
J. Allen Hynek
and
all other Forteans, researchers,
cryptozoologists and parapsychologists
who are longer with us.

Thank you for blazing the trail.

VISIT TO THE CRYPTOZOO

by J.L. Kelly

Welcome to the Cryptozoo! This month I will talk about those elusive Lake Monsters. Some researchers have suggested that every lake of any size in Northern Latitude locations may have a *monster*. Perhaps, but I feel that is *too much*. Yet we hear of sightings from New York, British Columbia, Oregon, Montana, Nevada, Idaho, the lochs of Scotland, the loughs of Ireland, Scandinavia, Siberia, China, etc. (They've also been seen in Africa, Australia and South America!) Native traditions place "monsters" in many bodies of water long before the white people arrived. Although many people are quick to scoff at local natives' "legends", their tune quickly changes when a serpentine neck comes boiling out of the water in front of them.

Let's first talk about what I mean by the term "lake monster." That is what *I* term any large, unknown water-dwelling animal that does not live in salt water. The term would fit anything unusual in a lake, river or swamp, but not in a tidal estuary or the open sea. To be more accurate, though, I would suggest we adopt terms like those used by TARA's Mark Gardner: *Fresh-water cryptids* and *salt-water cryptids*. Personally, I feel *monster* is too harsh and negative to use. Unfortunately, the terms "lake monster" and "sea monster" (or "serpent") are imbedded deeply in our culture and language. Please be aware that I will use the various terms interchangeably in this and future articles.

Can there really be a *monster* or *living dinosaur* in your local lake? Why not? But is it logical or supportable? I do not believe that a dinosaur-like fresh-water cryptid could be in any lake that has *never* been connected to the sea. This eliminates many lakes. Those isolated or alpine lakes supposedly hosting *monsters* probably contain only big sturgeon. Many lakes, though, like Loch Ness and Lake Champlain, were once connected to the sea directly or have a river system that is (or was) navigable. Marine saurians or primitive whales could have reached the future lake and been eventually trapped as the water dropped or the land rose.

There *is* enough food -- mostly fish -- in many large lakes to support a small breeding group of fresh-water cryptids. How could they take the temperature? If they are ancestral whales (a *zeuglodon*, for example) their warm blood solves that problem. What about a reptile? A "big lizard" would freeze. But dinosaurs *were not* reptiles, they were only close relatives descended from a common ancestor. A current popular theory is that all saurians were *warm-blooded*. So, a dinosaur could survive in temperate climates without much difficulty. Why aren't they seen more often taking a breath? It is possible that their metabolism is quite slow and not all water-dwelling animals have to exhale as loudly and dramatically as a modern whale. A small nostril and a quick inhalation/exhalation could explain that. There are other factors I don't have room to discuss now.

One very clever solution to the lake monster mystery is the "temporal dis-location" or teleportation phenomenon suggested by Mr. Gardner. A good reason why these creatures are seldom seen and no bodies ever found is t they are only *here* a short time and then are whipped ba to their own time and place. The only other options open us to explain lake monsters (if they are not real) are ho misidentification, optical illusion or psychic projection. ghosts are real, why couldn't there be a plesiosaur o zeuglodon ghost? Don't laugh, it's *possible*!

The mystery will be solved soon only if the lakes in question are drained completely or if a living or dead specimen is found. The mystery of lake monsters is one which I believe will be solved in my lifetime.

Next time I will talk about sea monsters/serpents!

Things That Go Bump...

by Kimberly Wajer

Whitmer's Theatre Ghost

I was down at Whitmer High School a few years ago and during the day they always kept the auditorium chained shut. I didn't hear the story until almost a year later. In 1970, the Whitmer students were doing their class play. It involved an absolutely horrid painting. They hung the painting in its spot but, just as the lines were cued, it fell.

After that it fell every time they hung it. Even when they nailed it to the wall. After that, in later plays, this apparition returned. Lights began to turn themselves on and off, even during performances. After the painting and the lights, they nicknamed the spirit Oscar. They even began to put his name in the credits. Right on cue, almost, he obliged them with strange out-of-script occurrences.

After awhile people began reporting someone sitting in a certain chair, even when it could be confirmed no one was there. Since the late 70's Oscar's been quiet but those who know say he's still there. Students aren't told about Oscar and no one's allowed in the theatre except for dress rehearsals and presentations.

During assemblies administrators don't let students sit in the area of the auditorium where Oscar supposedly sits. I've even heard that things tend to go wrong during assemblies more than chance allows. I was with a choir once, practicing in there, and even though the doors were locked, I could swear someone was out there watching us.

The Window Spectre

I don't know much of the story of this one and I've never been down there myself, but here's the story: In the late 70's, I believe, a woman in the Toledo Hilton's dining hall threw herself to her death (or she may have just committed suicide by the window). After that the window has always borne the image of her face. Even after the glass is replaced, the image reappears. It may be a hoax, just as Oscar may be a hoax, but I've heard they don't allow many people in that dining hall anymore.

[Kimberly is a new contributor from Toledo, Ohio – Ed.]

[The following is a reprint of the text of a pamphlet printed in 1817. The last known copy belongs to the Vermont Historical Society. It is reprinted here in order to preserve a most fascinating historical occurrence from being lost forever. All spelling, grammar and punctuation is as it was in the original pamphlet – Ed.]

A Monstrous Sea Serpent

The Largest Ever Seen In America

Has just made its appearance in Gloucester Harbour,

Cape Ann, and has been seen by hundreds of

Respectable Citizens.

A FRIGHTFUL FISH.

Salem, (Mass,) Aug. 18, 1817.

YESTERDAY information was received in this town from Gloucester, of the appearance of an unusual fish or serpent in their harbor. The letter represented that the head of it, eight feet out of water, was as large as the head of a horse, and of great length. It was afterwards stated that two had been seen. A party was soon provided to take him, with muskets, harpoons, and every instrument which good marksmen and whalemen could use. We soon after received a letter informing us that the fish had been seen for several days, and that it was discovered by the fishermen. All the attempts to take the fish had been ineffectual. Quite different accounts are given of its length, which all agree is great, and that its body is round. That it is very quick in its motions, and in all directions. The person adds, "I have just seen the fish, sporting in the water, and it shows the length of fifty feet, within a quarter of a mile of shore," and adds, "we have never seen any thing like it." A man who discharged his musket within thirty feet of it, says the head was partly white. The inhabitants were determined to repeat their attempts to take it. Another letter says, "I have had an opportunity to see the fish, and the street is full of persons who are going to enjoy the sight of it. It appears in joints like the wooden buoys on a net rope, almost as large as barrels. Two muskets were fired at it, and appeared to hit it on the head, but without effect. It immediately disappeared, and in a short time was seen a little below, but in the dark we lost sight of him. It appears like a string of gallon kegs 100 feet long."

On Sunday and Monday very distinct views were had of him, by various persons. Gentlemen who have been at Gloucester, and attended to the accounts of those who have seen him at different times, and in different situations, think there can be no doubt that the animal is a Serpent in kind; and that he is at least eighty, and more probably, an hundred feet long, and nearly the size of a flour barrel, at the largest piece. As to the bushes, or protuberances, which have been mentioned, these are thought to be nothing more than the appearances occasioned by his manner of motion. He does not wind, laterally along, as Serpents commonly do, but his motion is undulatory, or consisting in alternate rising and depression, somewhat like the motion of the catterpillar. Mr. Johnson, a young man who went on a boat to visit a vessel in the harbor, on Sunday, in the dusk of the evening, came very near to him before he discovered him, so that he might have reached him with his oar. He was quite still, and appeared to be reposing. He was round and smooth, and had nothing like bunches. His head, though in its front it is circular, is not flat like a common serpent's, but the top is elevated, prominent, and round; and owing to this latter circumstance a side view of his head a little resembles that of a dog's. Captain Beach, who appears to have examined him very often, and sometimes in favorable situations, says, his head is the size of a common bucket. He has seen him with his mouth open, his under jaw and teeth like a shark's, head round, with apparently very thick scales, and its whole appearance very terrific. Credible persons aver, that they have seen him swimming in the harbor with great speed, holding his head eight feet above the water. More often he moves along, with his head under water, showing the line of his back, or with his head immediately above the surface.

He appears to be round, with large scales, which, when he contracts his folds, gives a rigidy appearance to his back, but when he extends himself they inclose, and do not prevent his appearing smooth. His general color is dark brown; his head dark brown, intermixed with white. He often turns over quick, bringing his head near his tail, and putting himself in the form of a staple.

Since the appearance of the prodigious Snake at Cape Ann, a number of circumstances which had previously occurred have been recollected, which, coupled with the recent facts respecting it, place the existence of this remarkable animal beyond the reach of further dispute. About twenty years ago a paper was transmitted to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, in Boston, communicating some intelligence respecting the appearance of a monster of this kind in Penobscot Bay. A clergyman and his daughter were crossing the Bay in a boat, and such a Snake made his appearance and swam towards them--the lady fainted--the father was frightened--but the animal did them no injury. The description of the phenomenon was considered so remarkable, as to be credible, and the Academy refused to publish it. A search for the rejected paper is now making, in the hope that it will throw some light upon the question.

Captain George Little, who afterwards commanded the U.S. Frigate *Boston*, is recollected to have described a similar creature, which appeared in the same bay during the war of the revolution. He was sent out in a boat to examine him, but the snake disappeared before he could approach sufficiently near to make an attack.

The testimony assists us in giving credit in the information received from Cape Ann. The earliest accounts which the inhabitants of Gloucester received of their snake visitor, was from the master of a coasting vessel. He went on shore and mentioned that a horrid monster was discovered by him with his head round the bow and appeared to be resting on the cable--his body extending along the sides, and passing beyond the stern of the vessel, which measured about 80 or 90 tons. So little belief was awarded to the story, that the master was glad to seek refuge from derision on board his sloop.

A subsequent account however, given by a credible person, who lives upon as extreme point of the harbor, excited the curiosity, though it was not calculated to remove the doubts of the inhabitants. He described the monster as elevating his head 8 feet from the surface of the water and his sting or tongue about four feet in length --dashing its majestically about him, and moving through it with astonishing and terrific rapidity.

A few days afterwards doubt gave way to certainty--"what yesterday was fact today is doctrine," and the people of Gloucester have seen this monster themselves. Mr. Charles Smith, Mr. John Proctor, and several other respectable persons have established the fact of the appearance of this extraordinary water monster in Cape Ann harbor. It was reported to have been seen by some fishermen about ten days since, but no body gave credit to the story--and it was not generally credited until Sunday last, when the Serpent was seen as we understand, from the shore. The head appears mixed with black and white, and to resemble that of a large dog--the back of the body is black, and the opinions both as to length and thickness vary considerably. Those persons who have approached the nearest to it, or within ten or fifteen yards, consider the length to be from sixty to seventy feet, and the size of a barrel in thickness. Its motions serpentine, various, and of extreme rapidity--sometimes forcing nearly a complete circle in turning quickly round, and sometimes with its head out of the water, darting forward at the rate of a mile in three minutes, leaves a wake behind of half a mile in length.

Some of the adventurous seamen of Cape Ann we hear are endeavoring to construct a net of sufficient resistance, to hold the Serpent, and prevent his escape.

After reading the above account, we recollect one not altogether unlike it. A Danish captain of the navy reported he saw in 1746, near the coast of Norway, a Sea-Serpent of very great size and length. The head which he saw out of the water, had some of the resemblance to that of a horse, and he remarked something hanging from his neck like long black hairs. As he moved at a distance, he looked like a row of large casks, following in a right line. He moved with uncommon swiftness. We plainly see an agreement in these different accounts, and are led to believe that the fish seen at such a distance of time and place, may be one of the same kind. To what size the fish of the Northern seas may grow, is not known, but Cepede, comparing a fossil tooth in the family of sharks, with those known to belong to the largest now, gives the fish which must have used it, more than double the length of any fish of the family now known. We are pleased to see the excitement which the fish has made, and the determination to take it. We know no men more expert, and we hope they will be rewarded from the bounty, as well as curiosity of others, if they succeed. The Danish captain observed that the Norway fishermen were much alarmed for the safety of their boats.

Within the last three or four days, nothing particular of the Sea-monster, which has so long attracted the public curiosity, is heard of. Some passengers in a Newburyport vessel, passing Cape-Ann, on Thursday last, saw, about ten o'clock, a large fish, passing rapidly through the water, towards the harbor, with his head several feet above the surface. They presumed it to be the so much talked of Sea Serpent.

The Serpent has quitted Gloucester, and on Thu[illegible]ay was discovered in Kettle Cove, (Manchester) amidst sch[illegible]ols of bait fish; none of these have been seen in Glouce[illegible]er harbor since his disappearance.

Kettle Cove, is about four miles on this side of Cap[illegible] Ann, (Gloucester.) It appears from various accounts, th[illegible] the favorite food of this new visitor, is bait fish, herring, squid, and pohaden. Is it not probable then, that he has been attracted to out coast at this time by the unusual schools of these fish, which have been known to abound on the whole coast of Massachusetts this summer? We have been informed by gentlemen from Cape Cod, that immense quantities of squid have appeared on that coast, and thrown ashore on the land; and we have accounts from other quarters of the appearance of herrings, &c, in large numbers.

Capt. Beach, junr. has seen this animal from twelve to twenty times and has taken an accurate drawing of him, which is presented in the plate. He describes him as being in his most contracted state, about 70 feet in length, and of the size of a flour barrel. A number of enterprising citizens have been at Cape-Ann some days to encourage and assist in the destruction of the monster. A committee of the Linaean Society repaired to Cape Ann, to collect information so interesting to natural history.

It is said a number of sharp shooters had been in pursuit of him; but could not make a ball penetrate his head; about 20th August, a number of boats full of men with guns, harpoons, and sundry weapons, made an attempt on him; but the serpent soon turned on his pursuers, and that they with difficulty succeeded in reaching the shore.

That $2000 had been offered for him.

Two fishing boats from Sandy Bay, (Gloucester,) sailed last Saturday in pursuit of the Sea-Serpent, with nets and other implements for taking him but did not succeed.

By the politeness of Capt. Brown, we have been favored with account of a Sea-Serpent, which he saw on his voyage to St. Petersburg, in 1811.

"Being bound to St. Petersburg in the *Washington* of Newbury-port, in the year 1811, about the last of July, being then in lat. 60, 40 N. and long. 7, 40 W, I discovered something about three or four miles distant, about two points on the weather bow, which appeared like a mast, as it rose and sunk in a perpendicular manner, once in about eight or ten minutes. I kept the vessel directly for it, and after looking at it with my glass, I observed to my mate that it was a wreck, as I could see the timbers &c. sticking up, but as we approached nearer, I found what appeared like timbers, to be a number of porposies and black fish playing and jumping round a large Sea-Serpent, which we had supposed to be a mast. He appeared to keep the same motion of rising and sinking from the time of his first coming in sight, till we lost sight of him astern, and his motions and progress were very moderate, and appeared to be making his way to the N.N.E. and the above fish playing round him, as long as we could see him in the glass. It is supposed he was in sight of us, about an hour and a half. I had a number of fair views of him, and went abreast of him, he came up about 30 feet from the vessel, and rose about 15 feet above the surface, with his head bent a little forward but did not appear startled, but turned his head, as if to view the vessel. His head was formed somewhat like that of an eel, only more blunt, his back was nearly black, and his belly a muddy white or gray; he had a sharp looking eye, about as

large as that of a horse; his mouth was about 15 inches in length, and he was big round as a barrel, or rather less, and generally rose about 15 feet above the surface; he had eight creases on the under part of his neck, which came half way round, which I supposed to be his gills; his head appeared to be from 18 to 24 inches in length; he had no appearance of any fins or scales, but was smooth like the skin of a porpoise.

JOHN BROWN, 3rd.

In Rollins Ancient history, under the head of "First Punic War," we find the following account of an enormous serpent which was slain by the Roman army under Regulus after the departure of his colleague Manlius, for Rome. The monster seems to have borne a strong affinity to the one lately seen in the harbor of Gloucester.

"Genus Boa, species *Constrictor*.--The animal of this species, is a native of Africa, India and the larger Indian Islands.

The learned Frienshanius, in his Supplementa Lavinia, describes the event as follows:

"In the meantime, Regulus, every where victorious, led his army into a region watered by the river Bagradar, near which, an unlooked for misfortune awaited them, and at once affected the Roman camp with considerable loss, and with apprehension still more terrible, for a serpent of prodigious size attacked the soldiers who were sent for water, and while they were overwhelmed with terror and unequal to the conflict, engulphed several of them in its enormous mouth, and killed others by writhing round them with its spires, and bruising them with the strokes of its tail; and some were destroyed by the pestilential effluvia proceeding from its breath; it caused so much trouble to Regulus, that he found it necessary to contest the possession of the river with it, by employing the whole force of his army; during which a considerable number of soldiers were lost, while the serpent could neither be vanquished or wounded; the strong armor of its scales easily repelled the force of all weapons that were directed against it--upon which, recourse was had to battering engines, with which the animal was attacked in the manner of a fortified tower, and was thus at length overpowered.

"Several discharges were made against it without success, till its back being broken by an immense stone, the formidable monster began to lose its powers, and was yet with difficulty destroyed; after having diffused such a horror among the army, that they confessed they would rather attack Carthage itself than such another monster; nor could the camp continue any longer in the same station, but was obliged to fly; the water and the whole adjacent region being tainted with the pestilential effluvia.--A most mortifying humiliation to human pride! Here at least, was an instance of a whole Roman army, under Regulus, and universally victorious, both by sea and land, opposed by a single snake, which conflicted with it when living, and even when dead, obliged to depart. The proconsul therefore thought it no diminution to his dignity to send the spoils of such an enemy to Rome, and to confess at once the greatness of his victory and his terror, by this public memorial, for he caused the skin of the snake to be taken off and sent to the city, which is said to have measured 120 feet; it was suspended in a temple, and remained till the time of the Numantine War."

The monstrous Serpent in the vicinity of Cape Ann harbor, seems also to bear a strong resemblance to an animal which was thrown on the Island of Stronsa, one of the Orkneys, in September 1808. A particular description of that animal, accompanied by several drawings and affidavits may be found among memoirs of the Wernerian Society for 1808, 9, and 10. That animal was fifty-five feet in length, the circumference about ten feet, and length of his neck fifteen feet.

The Cape Ann Serpent was distinctly seen on Saturday morning last by several persons, at the entrance of Gloucester Harbor. Several parties from Gloucester, Marblehead, and Salem, for the purpose of watching an opportunity to attack him, but he was not seen again on that day, and on Sunday the weather was stormy. Yesterday, being a fine moderate day, they were again on the look out for him, but we have not learnt whether he was seen.

The Salem Gazette says "the grand serpent, was seen on Saturday, 23d Aug. behind Ten Pound Island, (Gloucester,) faring sumptuously amid millions of herrings."

On Saturday, 30th Aug. an intelligent gentleman from Gloucester, learnt that the Sea Snake had not been seen there since Tuesday last. The hopes of taking him become less daily.

In searching for the Sea Serpent, some fishermen, on Monday caught a fish about nine feet long, off Cape Ann Harbor, which being an uncommon one, has been skinned, stuffed, and sent to the Salem Museum. It has been hoaxingly reported, that this fish was one of the *progeny* of the Serpent. *Apropos*--Some persons have expressed their fears, that the visit of the Sea Serpent to our coast is to cast its spawn!

Capt. Tappan, from Newburyport, reports, that on his passage here on Thursday, about ten o'clock, A.M. he saw the Sea Serpent in the vicinity of Cape Ann, passing very rapidly through the water, with his head extended several feet.

The vigilance of Cape Ann is still employed respecting the newcomer in their waters.

INFANT SEA SERPENT.

It is now ascertained that a spawn of the great Sea Serpent who has been dallying in the waters of Cape Ann, for some time past, has been caught and in now bro't to this town. He is thus described in several letters from Cape Ann announcing his capture. A letter to the editor of the Centinel says, a young snake was taken yesterday, by a Mr. Colby and others, in Lob Lolly Cove, near Thatcher's Island, where the monster of the seas has been often seen. They were so much afraid of him, at first, that they used more violence in killing him than was necessary, and they have very much bruised his head. They might, by wounding, have taken him alive. He is now preserved in spirits and furnishes the most ample confirmation of the existence of the Sea Serpent, and fully justifies the confidence which the Centinel has maintained of its existence, size, form and properties.

Another letter says, "I have now in my house one of the children of the Serpent or the Devil, for in all my travels on land and sea, I have never seen any snake like this one."

Other Particulars.

At about four inches from the head of the infant Serpent, is a rising protuberance, which is succeeded until within four inches of the end of the tail, by thirty-one others.--His back is of a brownish color and straight. The cove in which he was discovered, is near the lighthouse on Thatcher's Island. He was on the beach, making his way to the water when discovered by two boys, who called their father, and they all succeeded in killing him among the rocks and sea weed.--the last time the serpent was seen was near this cove. It is conjectured she deposited her spawn in the sand of this beach; that this has been hatched and was seeking the water when discovered and killed.-*Bost.Gaz.*

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Extract of a letter from Dr. Mitchell, dated New York, Sept. 21, to a gentleman in Washington.

"Yesterday Gen. David Humphreys favored me with a visit, and read to me his memoir on the great animal which has lately appeared in the ocean near the coast of Massachusetts. He has been there, and has collected the evidence with great care; I think it certain that a huge Marine Serpent has presented itself to view, and that the inhabitants made all the exertions that skill and intrepidity could devise to overcome him. The testimony registered by this learned gentleman countenances the belief that there may have been three individuals of the species near Gloucester and Cape Ann at the same time. But if they should all escape, science may rejoice that every fact of any moment is distinctly stated, and will be faithfully recorded. As much as could be gathered concerning the appearance, magnitude, form, color, habits, manners and peculiarities of this extraordinary visitor, has been perspicuously written by the General, whose narrative will be an instructive document both for our contemporaries and successors. After we had condoled on the loss that Zoology had sustained by the creature's escape, I requested my friend and other persons present to examine a Sea Serpent belonging to my collection. It is a real *Laticauda* or *flat tailed snake* of the *sea;* and was brought from Guadaloupe. Specimens of this sort are not, to my knowledge, very frequent in our museums. I will therefore give you description of this, which is probably the *Platuse abandes of Daubin* and the *Laticauda scutata of Laurenti.* It lives in the waters of the sea, like other kinds called *Hydrophos* and *Pelumides.* The length is rather less than eighteen inches. The figure is delicate and well proportioned, the color *black* and *whitish,* in alternate zones of bands. Of these the whitish may be considered the ground or proper complexion, and the black is the variegation. The dark circles or rings are thirty-two in number, and about one fourth of an inch broad; the white zones, if they may be called, amount to 33 and are rather wider. There is a black stripe on each side of the lower jaw, which communicates with the second band round the neck. The back, head and neck, are *scaly,* and the belly *shielded.* The scales cover the head, neck and throat, as far as the posterior edge of the second black band. The *shields* on the belly are *single,* and their number are 240; those on the tail are *double,* and amount to 50 pair. The tail is flat like the blade of an oar; and an artist who should fashion one after this model, would work to the best advantage. It differs from that of the eel, and most other fish, in being destitute of *fins* and rays. It is three furrowed (*tri sulcata*) on both sides, and rounded on the extremity. The head is smooth though scaly--the *scales* larger than those on the body. The mouth has no *fangs*, nor many teeth of any kind; the animal is therefore not *venomous.*

The tail is admirably adapted to scull the body along; which is the more necessary for a water serpent that has no *fins*. I gave Gen. Humphreys a further confirmation of the existence of *Oceanic Serpents*, by exhibiting the *vertebræ* and *teeth* of one dug out of a hill near *Murfreesborough* from the bank of *Mekerrin* river, in North Carolina in 1816. A single joint of the back bone weighs *twelve pounds and a half*, and the two teeth *one pound each*. The teeth are triangular, having a base 4 1-2 inches, and sides of 6 inches. Their enormous relics are part of a skeleton at least *forty* feet long, naturally buried in gravelly stratum, abounding with the shells of clams and scallops *sixty* miles from the ocean, at Currituck, and disinterred by digging away the ground for the construction of a mill. Capt. Neville, from whom I received them described to me the curious spectacle of the soil overspread with such huge remains of an animal perhaps like the one now alive and sporting in his element, and exciting the admiration of our citizens. We are in an age of successful enquiry, and I hope this communication will aid your researches.--*Nat.Intel.*

In addition to the information which the appearance of the Sea-Serpent in the waters of New-England has lately bro't to light, we are enabled, by the politeness of Dr. Mitchill, to add the following interesting particulars, for the amusement of our readers.--*N.Y.Herald.*

Copy of a letter addressed to Dr. Mitchill, by our late consul at Bordeaux, now in the treasury department, Wm. Lee, esq.

"WASHINGTON, SEPT. 2, 1817.

"My dear sir--The description given in your newspapers of a sea-serpent, lately seen for several days in and about Cape Ann Harbor, has brought to my recollection one of this species.

"On a passage I made from Quebec, in 1787, in a schooner of about eighteen tons burthen, while standing in for the Gut of Canso, the island of Cape Breton being four leagues distant, one of the crew cried out "a shoal a-head!"--The helm was instantly put down to tack ship, when to our great astonishment, the shoal, as it passed athwart the bow of our vessel, we discovered it to be an enormous Sea-Serpent, four times at least as long as the schooner. Its back was of a dark green color, forming above the water a number of little hillocks, resembling a chain of hogsheads. I was then but a lad, and being much terrified, ran below until the monster was at some distance from us. I did not see his head distinctly; but those who did, after I had hid myself in the cabin, said it was as large as the small boat of the schooner. I recollect the tremendous ripple and noise he made in the water, as he went off from us, which I compared at the time to that occasioned by the launching of a ship.

"My venerable friend, Mr. ----, of your city, was a passenger with me at the time. He will corroborate this statement, and probably furnish you with a better description of this monster; for I well recollect his taking his stand at the bow of the vessel, with great courage, to examine it while the other passengers were intent only on their own safety.

"At Halifax, and on my return to Boston, when frequently describing this monster, was laughed at so immoderately that I found it necessary to remain silent on the subject, to escape the imputation of using a traveller's privilege of dealing in the marvellous."

THE SCIENCE CORNER

By Bob Marx

Greetings, friends! For my second column in *Elsewhen* I've chosen **The Science Corner** as my venue.

Why won't the scientific community accept the legitimacy of the "pseudo" sciences, such as ufology and cryptozoology? Is it because they really know nothing about them? Very possible. Do they feel threatened by or in competition with these alternative fields of endeavor and research? Perhaps. This is nothing new. Every time that a new "science" has appeared, the entrenched and accepted sciences have done their best to undermine the new "upstart" science. This goes back to the efforts of the Church to keep people ignorant, so they could control them easier. Hundreds were squelched by the determined efforts of the Church. These early "scientists" were labelled as being in league with the Devil. Many were tortured and killed. Today, some Fundamentalists continue this tradition with their fight against evolution and other "unacceptable" ideas. The efforts of this misguided minority impinge upon the rights of the vast majority.

Now, even though I have a low opinion of classical alchemy, I do know that it led to chemistry, biology, metallurgy and a host of other modern sciences. Likewise, the nonsense of astrology led to the science of astronomy. It is the nature of things to change.

Ethics and morality are important in any field of endeavor, not just science. Two great dilemmas come to mind: Whether to use the results of Nazi experiments and whether to use live animals in medical research.

Many experts around the world wish access to the files containing results of Nazi medical experiments carried out during World War II. They feel that this information can be useful to the medical community and may save lives. Others want the information destroyed or sealed away forever. Personally, I feel that any of this information, if it can save just one life, should be made available. How else can we turn horror into good and guarantee that the "participants" did not die in vain?

How about animals being used in research? This is a tough question, especially for me, since I have been involved in conservation-related activities for years. The simple fact is that much of this is unavoidable, no matter how it might seem. Without animals in research, a major part of modern medical technology and medicines would not be here. There is simply no other substitute in many cases. On the other hand, where an alternative exists, it should be strongly supported. Unnecessary research needs to be completely wiped out. Ask yourself: Should a rabbit die so that a child can live? Many animal rights activists say we should use rapists and murderers for medical research, and spare the animals. You see, there is simply no easy answer.

Although the march of time is never-ending, I do not think that it will completely eradicate many of the "new" sciences we live with. Although some of the pseudo-sciences will disappear or become something else, those "fringe" sciences with any true foundation will endure. Respectability and acceptance will come to those who deserve it. Some pseudo-sciences will become sciences and some will fade away into the dust bin of history, as did alchemy.

When I was a child, parapsychology was a "fringe" or "pseudo" science. (There are now universities offering degrees in this subject.) And I had never heard of ufology and cryptozoology, because they did not exist. Will there ever be degrees offered in them? Who knows.

I'll see you next time, I hope. Peace.

Spotlight on Religion

By Marcia Stewart

In the last issue of *Elsewhen* I discussed how "faith" was a blind belief in something that cannot be proven. This is very true in the context of religion. Faith can be used in a secular way, too. You could have faith that the sun will rise tomorrow, that the polar icecaps won't suddenly melt and that nuclear weapons aren't on their way. These faiths can be measured and believed in, because each of them has testable reality.

How does faith work in religion? Faith in religion is the belief that something is true because someone (a priest, rabbi, etc.) or an old book says it is. But you *should not* put your faith into something that *does not* deserve it. This is the dilemma we have with the Old Testament. There is *absolutely no proof* that much of the material presented there ever happened historically. Some believe the *entire* Old Testament is fiction, pure and simple. Others believe it is purely allegorical or symbolic. Many believe that there is a tiny core of historical truth wrapped in fiction and allegory. The Hebrew writers of the Old Testament created a glorious history for their people which (in many cases) cannot be proven and is probably fictitious. I know several archaeologists who feel the stories of the Israelites are greatly exaggerated.

The Ten Commandments were written by men and plagiarized from Hammurabi's Codes. God did not write them! That is obvious by what they do or don't say. Everyone but the Hebrews had idols, so that became taboo in a Commandment. The writers of the Commandments must have had disobedient kids, so they made a Commandment to make them behave. Child abuse was never forbidden in a Commandment because children throughout most of history have been considered property of their parents to do with as they will. The author's identity comes through. Man, not God. The same thing holds true for slavery. One of the most horrible institutions of Man has been slavery. If a loving God wrote the Commandments, it would have been forbidden. Slave owners wrote the Commandments and they certainly wouldn't forbid that luxury. What do you think "coveting your neighbor's servants" means? The correct translation is *slaves*, not *servants*. The writers didn't want someone else to steal their slaves!

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

This section is reserved each month for letters from our readers. Feel free to share your ideas, questions, and personal experiences. Spelling and grammar will be corrected, when necessary, only to make the text clear. The length of some letters may be shortened to allow room for other letters, so long as the intent of the letter is not changed.

Dear Mr. Gardner,

In August 1954, my wife Evelyn and our two children were traveling in our auto from Anderson, Ind., to Duluth, Minn., where Evelyn's family lived. In ten years we had made the trip twelve times; twice by train. Since Evelyn did not drive, I was rather well acquainted with the road. We usually went through Des Plaines, Ill., and took National Highway 14 to Madison, Wis.

My passengers were asleep in the back seat...

Suddenly I was aware that we were ascending a very steep hill overlooking an immense valley on the left which seemed to be more reminiscent of northern Wis. than northern Ill. The road had just been widened by a fresh cut in the perpendicular hillside to the right. No car was in sight except for the headlights of one approaching far behind.

As we neared the summit of the hill where the road curved out of sight to the right, this car came up closely behind us. When we reached the curve and the road was clear for miles as it plunged down again into the valley, the car sped around us and was soon far ahead.

I noted that it was a red station wagon pulling a trailer [with] a matching red boat. On the rear of the trailer were two rows of red, white and green lights arranged in the shape of a saltire cross. [It] was so unusual that I kept an eye out thinking I might pass it at a restaurant or motel and take a closer look.

We stopped several times to eat, get gas and use the restrooms. Most of the time my wife sat beside me and talked. Toward morning, when it was still dark, she climbed into the back and went to sleep with the children.

Sometime later, we seemed to be ascending the same hill I remembered after passing Des Plaines eight or nine hours before. The fresh cut in the hillside looked the same as did the valley. The full moon was shining into our auto at the same angle and the clouds looked the same. I glanced in the rearview mirror and, sure enough, there were the headlights of a lone car coming up fast behind us.

I had the eerie feeling that it was all happening a second time. As we reached the summit and the road could be seen clear ahead the same outfit passed us in the same manner and was soon far ahead as it was before. I remember thinking that if I looked around and my wife and children were sleeping in the same positions as they were the first time, it had indeed happened again. I looked around and was not surprised that they were.

Had I not been aware of so many parallel factors involved; if the traffic had been heavy and the car which passed us been an ordinary one which did not attract my notice, I might have concluded that this experience was a coincidence. But because of the number of unordinary [sic] things I noted I am convinced that for at least a few minutes that night I and my family went forward in time.

P.S.
Anderson, IN

Dear Mark,

Once when my oldest son was a baby, I was standing in my front yard, and my father-in-law and his boss passed in the car. We waved. I told my mother-in-law about it later and she called me a liar; they were both in the fields. The next day I was standing in the same place and the same thing happened about the same time. That day they did go to town. How do you explain that?

My husband and I with the children once went to the State Fair where we saw his brother-in-law's two brothers and talked to them a good while about the family. They knew the names and everything. Later we saw his brother-in-law, told him, and he said it could not have been his brothers, as they were out of state at the time. They looked all through the fairgrounds but never found them.

L.R.
Madisonville, KY

[These are by no means rare occurrences. They could have been time anomalies or ESP experiences - Ed.]

A recent book reported that there was strong reason to believe the "moving coffins in a sealed vault" type of story is just that: a story, and completely fictitious as far as the event on the island of Barbados in concerned, and also an event on an island in the Baltic Sea (see Chapter 10 of Secrets of the Supernatural, by J. Nickell and J.F. Fischer, Prometheus Books (hardback), Buffalo, 1988, especially p. 147). An event in England that is presumably earlier was not called fiction, and may have been caused by groundwater rising and then ebbing away later. It would appear that the theme of the "moving coffins" falls into a group of tales which recur from time to time in different locales (even different countries), and with different people involved--they are repeated because they are interesting tales and writers must make a living; another example might be that of the "phantom hitch-hiker" that vanishes during the car ride.

It seems that von Däniken's source for the story of the tunnels under Peru that run for hundreds of miles was a man named Juan Moricz, who told a representative of the German publication *Der Spiegel* that he (Moricz) had seen entrances to caves, but that as far as the tunnels were concerned he was basing the information "on mythology" (see Ronald Story, The Space-Gods Revealed: A Close Look at the Theories of Erich von Däniken, Harper & Row, (hardback), New York, 1976, p. 81). The tunnels were described in von Däniken's The Gold of the Gods.

[From an article entitled Moving Coffins Fiction--Peruvian Tunnels "Mythic" by contributor Hugh Trotti of Georgia - Ed.]

OFF THE BOOKSHELF

BIG FOOTNOTES:
A Comprehensive Bibliography Concerning Bigfoot, the Abominable Snowmen and Related Beings

by Danny Perez

D. Perez Publishing, Inc., Norwalk, Calif., Softcover, 1988, 189 pp., $10.

As the first book review for *Elsewhen*, I've chosen this rather impressive, self-published book by California Bigfoot researcher, Danny Perez. *Big Footnotes* is a large-format softcover that gives a substantial bibliography of sources relating to Man-like (usually hairy) beings. The book is broken down into thirteen subsections, such as "Books: 1556-1983" and "Magazines: 1800's-1983", etc. I felt that the "Magazines" and "Journals" sections should have been combined into one "Periodicals" section but that is just my opinion. Also, I felt the small "Radio" section might be of some historical value but has little or no value as a source, since recordings or transcripts of radio broadcasts are often difficult to find.

I was impressed with the number of entries. Let's use the "Books" section as an example: Out of the considerable list presented, I could only find a couple of omissions. I found many new sources I had never heard of before. As someone who once considered putting together a similiar bibliography, I was quite pleased. I noted the Mr. Perez included a number of works on anthropology and other sciences. I've read some of these books but the average reader of *Big Footnotes* would probably be confused as to the relevence of some items. It would have been nice if certain entries had been explained or annotated.

I appreciated the foreign sources throughout the book, since I can read several foreign languages. While I found few errors in the English language sources, I was surprised to find a significant number of spelling errors in the foreign language sources. I suspect, though, that these errors lie with Mr. Perez's European source and he cannot be be blamed for them.

The only omissions I found in the "Audio Visual" section were the three appearances of the Yeti in the BBC science-fiction TV program, *Doctor Who*: *The Abominable Snowmen*, *The Web of Fear* and *The Five Doctors*.

Big Footnotes is a valuable reference for the serious researcher and I recommend it to anyone interested in Bigfoot and his hairy relatives. It is well worth the cost that Mr. Perez is charging.

Mark Gardner

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